

MARCH 2021 AWARDS MONTHLY

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| 1. Silver Valor Award: | Officer Zachary R. Gehring #2481 |
| Police Shield: | Officer Zachary R. Gehring #2481 |
| | Officer Andrew T. Silva #2766 |
| Distinguished Service Award: | Officer Joshua R. Zimmerman #2467 |

The abovementioned officers was nominated for their actions while clearing a residence in the 1400 block of South Saint Francis.

On 02-27-2021, Officer Zachary Gehring #2481, Officer Andrew Silva #2766 and Officer Joshua Zimmerman #2467 were dispatched to check a residence in the 1400 block of South Saint Francis. Upon arrival, they contacted a male and a female outside of the residence. The female stated the owner of the residence was her grandmother and that the grandmother was in the nursing home. The female advised that over the past few months, the home had been vacant, but someone had broken in and stolen items belonging to her grandmother. Upon arriving that day, they noticed a few broken windows and wanted the officers to go in and check to make sure no one was inside.

Officer Zimmerman pushed open the barricaded front door and officers went inside. Officer Zimmerman was the first officer to go in and Officer Silva was the second officer in, with Officer Gehring following in third. As officers proceeded through the house to clear it, they heard a loud bang and Officers Gehring and Silva received injuries to their legs. Both Officers Gehring and Silva backed out of the residence followed by Officer Zimmerman. Officer Gehring immediately notified Dispatch that two officers had been injured by a possible bomb. Officer Gehring remained calm and directed Officers Zimmerman and Silva to get behind cover while maintaining a position to scan for additional threats coming from the house.

After assisting Officer Silva to cover, Officer Zimmerman observed that Officer Silva had sustained a large hole in his lower right leg and was bleeding profusely. Officer Zimmerman applied a tourniquet from his duty belt to Officer Silva's lower right leg to slow down the further loss of blood.

After several hours, SWAT and EOD entered the residence and were able to determine a modified shotgun missing a trigger guard was hidden in a recliner. The shotgun was upside down and had items on top of it. It is believed the recliner may have been bumped causing the shotgun to discharge.

Officer Gehring was injured in the left lower leg and had been struck by approximately 40 shotgun pellets. He was treated at Wesley and monitored for swelling. He was released several hours later.

Officer Silva's right leg was extremely close to the shotgun when it fired. He sustained a large wound to his right calf. He was missing a portion of leg tissue. Officer Silva was hospitalized and will have additional treatments in the future.

Because of Officer Gehring's courageous actions without regard to his own personal safety, while also being injured himself, he was awarded the Silver Wreath of Valor, the second highest award bestowed upon members of the WPD. He and Officer Silva also received the Police Shield, as they were injured in the line of duty. Officer Zimmerman's ability to provide information to incoming officers and dispatchers about Officer Silva's injuries as well as provided care to Officer Silva in order to slow the flow of blood from his injuries, Officer Zimmerman was awarded the Distinguished Service Award.